

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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TWO SENTENCED AFTER PURCHASING METH INGREDIENTS AT LEE'S SUMMIT GROCERY STORE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were sentenced in federal court today for aiding and abetting the possession of pseudoephedrine, which is used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Carl R. Spurgeon, 41, of Garden City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Co-defendant **Jeffrey C. Fensom**, 34, of Warsaw, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to nine years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 22, 2003, **Spurgeon** pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, he admitted that on Feb. 20, 2003, he and **Fensom** entered a Hy-Vee located at 310 S.W. Ward Road, in Lee's Summit, Mo., with the intent to obtain pseudoephedrine. The two codefendants agreed that **Fensom** would steal the pseudoephedrine and **Spurgeon** would purchase it, Graves said. As a result, the defendants obtained 14.4 grams of pseudoephedrine on Feb. 20, 2003, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Fensom pleaded guilty to similar charges on July 9, 2003. In addition to pleading guilty to aiding and abetting the possession of pseudoephedrine, **Fensom** also pleaded guilty to a firearm violation. By pleading guilty, **Fensom** admitted that he illegally possessed a firearm while also possessing with intent to distribute 8.98 grams of methamphetamine on Feb. 20, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a person to possess a firearm during or in relation to a drug trafficking crime. **Fensom** admitted that he was illegally in possession of a .22 caliber Davis Industries Derringer, while also in possession of the methamphetamine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow